

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. HINTON, from the Joint Select Committee on Internal Improvement, submitted the following Report:

The Joint Select Committee, to whom was referred the Memorial of the Convention on Internal Improvement, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully submit the following REPORT:

They concur in the feelings and sentiments expressed by the memorialists, and believe that an economical system of Internal Improvement would promote the interests and elevate the character of North Carolina. With a fertile soil and a climate adapted to a great variety of valuable productions, with mineral resources entirely unequalled in any other portion of the continent, with an industrious and intelligent population, the State has lagged behind her sisters in every thing calculated to increase the happiness of the people or to throw a lustre on our institutions. At present, there is not a single class of citizens, which can be considered in a prosperous condition. A few are wealthy, and many are in comfortable circumstances; but the thrift displayed by other States is not visible in our borders, improvement in agriculture and the mechanic arts is not even attempted, and intellectual advancement is retarded by poverty and listlessness.

No section of the State enjoys a cheap and easy access to a good market. If the labors of the planter are blessed with a rich return, his profits are consumed by the time and expense of getting his crop to the merchant. In summer our rivers are too shallow for the smallest craft, and when swelled with the rains of winter, they are dangerous and uncertain in their navigation; so that the farmer is constrained to the expensive and wearisome transportation practised by our forefathers. The cost of this mode, in comparison with artificial means, (as canals and rail roads,) the committee are unable to estimate; they can only refer the General Assembly to the experience of other countries, and a few facts, far more instructing and eloquent than their own theories. The eastern part of N. Carolina is supplied with flour from